

BOLSOVER

(DERBYSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITIONS

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

for the Year

1945

BOLSOVER

(DERBYSHIRE)



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

ON THE

HEALTH & SANITARY CONDITIONS

of the

URBAN DISTRICT OF BOLSOVER

for the Year

1945

Bolsover Urban District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1945.

Medical Officer of Health.

DR. A. H. WEAR, M.D., D.P.H., B.Hy.,

Dale Close, 100, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield.

(Tel. No. 811 Mansfield).

Deputy Medical Officer (Part-time).

DR. JOHN BENJAMIN MCKAY, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector (Full-time).

And Cleansing Superintendent.

(Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Inspector
under Shops Acts and Petroleum Acts).

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,

From 15th February, 1943.

Tel. No. 5 Bolsover.

(Council Offices).

Preface.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOLSOVER
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MRS. THOMAS AND GENTLEMEN.

I beg to submit my Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1945.

The health of the district has been excellent apart from an outbreak of measles which commenced in February and continued until the end of August. There has been a considerable decrease in the notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and only one case of diphtheria occurred.

The problem requiring most urgent attention in the district is undoubtedly that of Housing. No accurate figures are available to show the true position regarding overcrowding, but there is a large increase in the number of houses occupied by more than one family.

I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members and Officials for their continued interest and support.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. WEAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

"Dale Close,"

100, Chesterfield Road South,
Mansfield.

Statistics of the Area.

Area (acres)	4,526
Population (Census, 1931)	11,811
Population mid-year (Registrar-General) 1945	10,100
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945)	2,705
Rateable Value, 1945	£47,463
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 1945	£177/6/10

Social Conditions.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are coal mining and agriculture. Fruit is grown in the district in large quantities, and there is a Fruit Preserving Works. The British Diesel Oil and Petroleum Co. have large works in the area where "Coalite," which is a smokeless fuel, is produced. There is no doubt that Bolsover is gradually developing into an industrial area.

Chief causes of Invalidity in the District.

Scabies continues to be one of the most common causes of invalidity in the area. 203 persons received 622 treatments at the Bolsover Baths compared with 266 persons and 815 treatments during the last year.

10 school girls received 26 treatments for verminous heads compared with 22 in 1944 and 36 in 1943.

Since the change over from war to peace there has been a diminution in the number of cases both of scabies and verminous heads. Most of the recent cases of scabies have been due to service men infecting their families.

Nutrition.

Nutrition among school children has not deteriorated. There is no doubt that the provision of school meals and milk greatly helped to keep the children in good condition. Although there are less cases of malnutrition among school children most of them are "normal" and there are undoubtedly fewer children of "excellent" malnutrition.

Owing to the scarcity of fruit, many children over five years of age do not get sufficient Vitamin C. Another adverse factor I encountered during the war years was that double summer time did not give the children sufficient sleep.

An average of 819 children per day are supplied with meals at school. Approximately 47% of the children in this area now take school meals.

Milk in Schools.

Number taking $\frac{1}{3}$ pint per day—1,043 or 61%.

Number taking $\frac{2}{3}$ pint per day—331 or 19%.

Quantities of Fruit Juice and Cod Liver Oil supplied during the year 1945.

Fruit Juice, 13,549 bottles.

Cod Liver Oil, 1,369 bottles.

A. & B. Tablets, 217 cartons.

Dried Milk, 9,534 tins.

National Milk Cocoa for adolescents and young people under 21 has been taken up to a fair extent. This drink is now available in Youth Service Clubs.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

LIVE BIRTHS—

	Total	Males	Females	
Legitimate	203	99	104	{ Birth-rate per 1,000 of the essential resident population, 21.
Illegitimate...	11	3	8	
STILL BIRTHS	3	1	2	{ Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.8.

	Total	Males	Females	
DEATHS	99	49	50	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 9.7.

Deaths from puerperal causes :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other puerperal causes	1	4.6
Total	1	4.6

DEATH-RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	18
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	4.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	27

DEATHS FROM :

Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—
Cancer (all ages)	18
Influenza	—
Tuberculosis	2
Heart Disease	29
Pneumonia	1
Premature Birth	3
Congenital Malformations	1
Violent Injuries	3
Road Traffic Accidents	—

The Infantile death rate of 18 is most satisfactory. It will be noted that 3 out of the 4 deaths in infants were illegitimate babies.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1945.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION							RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		
	Live Births	Still Births	All causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis, under 2 years	Total Deaths under 1 year
England and Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	5.6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ..	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	7.8	54
148 Smaller Towns (1931 adjusted) Populations 20,000—50,000 ..	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.07	4.5	43
London	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	7.6	53
BOLSOVER U.D.	21	.29	9.7	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	18

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area.

Laboratory Facilities.

The number of types of specimens dealt with by the Country Laboratories were as follows :—

Enterica—	Positive.	Negative.	Total
Typhoid, Para-Typhoid			
A & B	—	2	2
Gaertner, Dysentery, etc.	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	11	12
Phthisis	—	10	12
Water	6	2	8
	7	25	32

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

This is supplied by the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Board. It is analysed every month and is consistently satisfactory in quality. The hardness at the present time is 12% and .15 parts per million of chlorine is added.

The following is a bacteriological analysis taken after chlorination.

Temperature in arrival	11°C.
No. of colonies per millilitre developing on agar :—	
In 3 days at 22°C.	3
In 48 hours at 37°C.	2
Probable number of bacteria. Coli Aerogenes Group	
in 100 millilitres	0
Free Chlorine P.P. million	None

Chlorine Treatment is installed at the softening plant near the pumping station. Analysis of the water before chlorination was done regularly when the Board employed their own chemist, but he has been seconded to war duties and upon his return analysing before chlorination will be resumed.

With the exception of 9 all the 2,735 houses in the district have a piped supply. Most of these 9 houses remaining are farms, six of which are in process of having a piped supply installed.

During 1944 a bill was passed in Parliament authorising the Chesterfield and Bolsover Water Boards to construct further works to supplement their existing supplies. Water is also obtained from the Blackwell Rural District, and it is proposed that additional amount be obtained from the Derwent Valley Water Board at Chatsworth.

Closet Accommodation.

There are 2,705 houses in the district, and apart from the numbers outlined below all are on the water carriage system of drainage.

Pail closets and Elsan closets	.....	.....	.....	106
Privies	.....	.....	.....	26
Cesspools	.....	.....	.....	86

The above are emptied weekly when and where possible. Where no sewer is available it is the intention of the Council to ask the owners to replace privy middens by pail closets.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

In January, 1945, the sewer draining approximately 201 houses into the Carr Vale Sewage works ceased to function owing to damage by mining subsidence. The sewage from this sewer overflowed from one of the manholes and was discharging into the River Doe Lea without treatment.

It was impossible to repair the damaged sewer, and therefore as a temporary measure, the sewage was screened and treated with sodium hypochloride before being discharged into the river.

At the same time the Council instructed a Consulting Engineer to prepare a scheme for permanent remedial works. These works will consist of reconstructing certain sewers, constructing a pumping station and a rising main, and treating the sewage from the 201 houses at the Bolsover Main Sewerage Works. Application was made by the Council on May 16th, 1945, for sanction to borrow £9,857, being the estimated cost of this work, and a Public Inquiry was held by one of the Minister's Inspectors (A. K. Pollock, A.M., Inst.C.E.), into the application on July 6th, 1945.

The remedial works had not been commenced at the end of 1945, but I understand that permission has been granted by the Ministry of Health, to construct these works.

Urgent Sanitary Requirements.

1. The abatement of overcrowding by the provision of more houses.
2. The closing and demolition of unfit houses.

Housing.

The Council are building 50 permanent houses and the intention is to construct another 50 during the second year after the European War. They are also putting up 25 temporary bungalows. At the time of writing this report not a single house has been completed although it is ten months since the war ended.

The slow process of building all over the country is painfully disappointing to hundreds of people living in rooms or in overcrowded or unfit houses. Some of the worst cases of overcrowding are problem families who might not prove very desirable tenants for Council houses, and the Council are considering buying certain properties for these people instead of putting them in new houses.

There is no doubt that the greatest public health need in Bolsover is the provision of more houses. It is estimated that there are 200 unfit houses in the town. The first persons who should be re-housed are those living in overcrowded conditions or in rooms, especially ex-service men and their families. In Bolsover alone there are approximately 328 families living in rooms.

With regard to repair of houses, the Sanitary Inspector states that an increasing number of repairs have been carried out and that labour difficulties are slightly improved.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk, Meat and Other Foods.

Full details of these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1945.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified											Total Deaths	
	At all Ages	At Ages—years											
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45		45 to 65	65 & upw'ds
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Scarlet Fever	..	..	1	2	1	13	4	..	1	1	..	..	20
Malaria	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis	..	25	24	27	29	46	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Measles	161	9	1	1	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	205	26	26	30	31	64	4	1	5	2	4	2	21

Prevalence and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Scarlet Fever.

22 cases occurred in the district as compared with 25 in 1944. 20 were removed to hospital.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

One suspected case was sent into hospital but the disease was not confirmed.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

161 notifications of measles and 8 of whooping cough were received. There were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Only one definite case occurred. It was an immunised child attending school, and the source of infection was traced to a boy in the same class who lived outside the area. As this boy had been in school for a few days before the parents called in a doctor it is remarkable that only one child in Bolsover caught the infection and shows the benefit to be derived by the community from immunisation.

Immunisation stirs up the natural defences of the body against diphtheria. All that is necessary is two or three injections under the skin of a few drops of fluid. In about six weeks after the last injection the child is protected against diphtheria and in the great majority of cases the protection lasts a long time. Although an immunised child may contract diphtheria the attack is invariably mild and there is no danger of it proving fatal.

At the end of the year 85% of toddlers and 86% of school children had been immunised, a total of 85% of all children in the area.

Tuberculosis.

The following table gives particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease during the year.

Age Periods in years.			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	..	..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	..	..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards			1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	..		4	1	—	—	—	1	1	—

As you will see there were only 5 new cases of pulmonary T.B. notified compared with 16 in 1945. The ratio of non-notified tuberculous deaths to total tuberculosis deaths is nil. Both deaths this year had been notified.

It has been estimated that tubercle bacilli in milk causes 80% of non-pulmonary tuberculosis and rather less than 2% of pulmonary tuberculosis, hence the importance that milk should be pasteurised.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR and CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1945.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

SIR, MRS. THOMAS, AND GENTLEMEN.

It is my privilege to present my Annual Report of the year 1945 for your consideration. The details are given under the various headings relating to all matters connected with the Public Health and Cleansing Services of the Urban area. The activities of the Department have been carried out with the same progressive spirit as in the previous year, and several enterprising schemes have been given consideration in Committee, and carried through to a successful issue.

The details are as follows :—

Inspection of District.

During the year 3,314 visits were made re complaints received and in the general inspection of the district.

Nuisances.

489 nuisances were reported to the Public Health Committee. The following table gives particulars of such nuisances respecting which Preliminary Notices were issued or owners interviewed.

Defective Roofs.....	69
„ Ceiling Plaster	39
„ Wall Plaster	43
„ Floors	47
„ Fire Ranges	57
„ Washing Coppers	7

Defective	Lid to washing copper	1
"	Ovens	11
"	Fire Backs	9
"	Fire Bars	1
"	Hearths	1
"	Boilers	18
"	Slopstones and sinks, etc.	6
"	Sink waste pipes	20
"	W.C. Pedestals	12
"	W.C. Cisterns	23
"	W.C. drain	1
"	W.C. cones	8
"	W.C. Soil Pipe	1
"	W.C. seats	8
"	W.C. pipes	7
"	W.C. Flush pipes	1
"	Sanitary Pail	1
"	Ball Tap to W.C.	1
"	Pail Closets	1
"	Gable End Walls	3
Damp Walls		25
Defective	Brickwork Joints	1
"	Brickwork to Coal Store	1
"	Passage between houses	1
"	Passage Paving	1
"	Yard Surfaces	1
"	Well in Yard	1
"	Yard Walls	3
"	Doors	19
"	Door Frames	6
"	Fasteners to internal Doors	2
"	Outbuildings	1
"	Cellar	1
Alleged Dirty Houses		2
Burst Pipes		5
Defective	Cylinders	5
"	Water Courses	1
"	Ball Tap to cistern	4
"	Circulating Pipes	1
"	Water Tanks	2
"	Waste Water Gulley	1
"	Grate to Waste Water Gulley	1
"	Baths	2
"	Grate to Gulley	1
"	Taps	2

Obstructed Drains	35
Defective W.B. and Threshers	3
,, Window Frames	13
,, Window Cords	34
,, Skylights	2
,, Window Heads	2
,, Eaves Gutters	22
,, Chimney Pots	1
,, Chimney Stacks	3
,, Chimney Flashings	1
,, Rain Water Pipes	9
,, Inspection Covers	7
,, Inspection Chambers	3
,, Manhole Frames	4
,, Window Fasteners	4
,, Stair-case Treads	2
,, Cement Pointing around sink	1
,, Flues	8
,, Ash Bins	171
,, Street Gulleys	1
,, Roof to Cowshed	1
,, Aid Raid Shelters	1
,, Shelves to Food Cupboard	1
,, Ventilation	2
Bug Infested Premises	3
Offensive Smells	1
	821

Notices.

358 Preliminary or Informal letters and notices were served upon owners or occupiers to abate the above-mentioned nuisances found in connection with dwelling houses, etc.

It was found necessary to issue 32 Statutory Notices during the year to secure the abatement of nuisances.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year to secure abatement of nuisances.

Factories Act.

160 Visits of inspection have been paid to factories in the District which were found to be in a satisfactory condition generally.

3 Contraventions were observed which were remedied by request. Two notifications were received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

Workplaces.

3 visits of inspection were paid to workplaces in the district during the year. No contraventions were observed.

Bakehouses.

Number on register, December, 1945 2

These premises have been regularly visited and inspected. No contraventions were observed.

Fried Fish Shops.

There were 9 fried fish shops on the register at the end of the year. 35 visits of inspection have been made to these premises.

Defects found to exist 8

Defects remedied, December, 1945 7

Food Preparing Premises.

There were 12 Food Preparing premises being used as such during the year. 15 visits of inspection have been made to these premises.

Defects found to exist 6

Defects remedied, December, 1945 4

Butchers' Shops.

33 visits of inspection have been paid to Butchers' shops within the district. There were 12 on the register at the end of the year.

Meat Regulations.

40 visits of inspection were paid to Market Stalls. There were no contraventions of the Regulations during the year.

Unsound Food.

The following amount of diseased or unsound food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:—

Bacon, 4 lbs.	Meat Paste, 5 lbs.
Tongue, 16 lbs.	Sauce, 8 bottles.
Dates, 82 lbs.	Fruit Cordial, 1 lb.
Fish, 23 tins.	Peas, 2 tins.
Meat, 14 tins.	Luncheon Meat, 6 lbs.
Dried Egg, 7 packets.	Pork Luncheon Meat, 14½ lbs.

Soup, 5 tins.	Kam, 7 tins.
Beans, 1 tin.	Vegetables, 127 tins.
Bovril, 1 bottle.	Fish Cakes, 144.
Tomatoes, 64 lbs.	Milk, 33 tins.
Syrup, 6 lbs.	Salt, 3 blocks.
Preserves, 46 lbs.	Condiments, 3 bottles.
Sausage, 202½ lbs.	Soya Flour, 11 lbs.
Currants, 56 lbs.	Torox Cubes, 26.
Vinegar, 1 bottle.	
Total Weight	4 cwts. 1 qr. 16¾ lbs.

All the above were surrendered at the time of inspection prior to being exposed for sale.

Slaughterhouses and Knacker Yard.

There are four licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District, and in all four cases the licences were renewed. None of these are in use at the present time.

There is one Knacker's Yard on the register. 46 visits of inspection have been paid to these premises during the year.

Business was found to be carried out in as satisfactory a manner as the nature permits, and records were kept up-to-date as required.

Meat Inspection.

The numbers of private pigs killed in the district continues to show an increase, but no requests were received during the year for any to be inspected. An appeal to the Public was made during the year by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, to have their pigs inspected after slaughter but unfortunately no response has been forthcoming.

I repeat, Tuberculous pork is probably being eaten on a large scale, and the Government's policy of encouraging the backyard pig keeper to kill his pig anywhere, leaving the matter of meat inspection obligatory, is creating a grave menace to Public Health.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

29 visits of inspection were made to dairies within the Urban District. 108 visits of inspection were made to farms and cowsheds within the district.

Total number of Accredited Producers in the District is 5 out of a possible 22.

Several farm premises are being made to comply with the Milk and Dairies Orders with a view to applying for an Accredited Producer's Licence.

Milk Samples.

91 samples of milk were taken during the year.

83 samples were submitted to the Methylene Blue Test and 71 were submitted to B.Coli Test.

No. of Samples.	Test Methylene Blue.	
	Good	Bad
83	65 or 78%	18 or 22%
No. of Samples.	Test for B. Coli	
	Good	Bad
71	54 or 76%	17 or 24%

20 samples of milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for a Bacterial Count.

No. of Samples.	Bacterial Count Test.	
	Good	Bad
20	16 or 80%	4 or 20%

71 samples of milk were submitted to the Bacteriologist for Biological Test. Tuberculosis was not produced in a guinea pig 28 days after inoculation in any of the 71 samples.

20 samples of Pasteurised Milk were submitted to the Phosphatase Test. 19 re-acted as having been adequately pasteurised. 1 failed to pass the test.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The registrations up to the 31st December were as follows :—

Cowkeepers in the Urban District retailing milk within the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Wholesale Producers within the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Shopkeepers within the district Retailing milk	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
Purveyors of Milk within the district	.....	.....	.....	.....	38

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection.

The following table gives the number of infectious diseases and the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital.

	Notified.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	22	20
Diphtheria	1	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—
Measles	161	—
Whooping Cough	8	—
Erysipelas	5	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—
TOTAL	205	21

21 rooms were disinfected by means of spraying with formalin or fumigating with formic aldehyde gas. 11 Books have been disinfected. Several beds and articles of clothing were Steam Disinfected at the disinfecting Station, Council Yard. In some cases a charge was made.

25 Visits were made arranging Scabies Treatments and Verminous Head Treatments.

Water Supply.

Following reports on unsatisfactory private supplies the Council decided to close all wells and springs and replace by a wholesome supply from the Town's mains. 10 wells have already been closed, and town's water laid on. In the remaining instances the work is in hand and nearing completion. We hope during the coming year to eliminate all private water supplies throughout the district, having all premises connected to the town's mains.

9 samples of swimming bath water were taken during the year from the Public Baths, New Station Road. Five were found to be satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory.

Since the baths closed down at the end of the swimming season, there has been installed a Bells' Ammoniator Plant which seals the chlorine in the water making it far more effective as a sterilizing agent. This should considerably improve the condition of the swimming bath water during the coming season.

Petroleum (Consolidated) Act.

18 visits of inspection were paid to premises where Petroleum Spirit is stored. All licences were renewed during the year. No contraventions were observed.

Schools.

87 visits of inspection were carried out during the year for various purposes, i.e., Immunisation, Health and Education Propaganda, Verminous Heads, Scabies, Sanitary Accommodation, etc.

Public Buildings, Inns, etc.

11 visits of inspection were paid to the above premises re W.C. accommodation.

Complaints received	.....	.....	1
Defects Found	.....	.....	2
Defects Remedied	.....	.....	2

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.**Rats and Mice Infestation Order, 1943.**

The part-time rat catcher who is employed at a maximum of 30 hours weekly made 97 visits of inspection to premises infested with rats.

862 rats were caught during the year.

Shops Acts.

In connection with the above there were no complaints received during the visits. 15 visits were paid to various premises where mixed staffs were employed.

Moveable Dwellings.

Routine inspections were carried out of the caravans renting Kitchen Croft for the winter. The dwellings were kept in a satisfactory manner and no nuisances were found. New W.C. accommodation was required and has been provided.

Vermin.

29 houses were found to be infested with vermin, i.e., bugs, fleas, etc. 116 rooms were sprayed with insecticides and great improvements were reported in all cases. Advice was given to owners and occupiers concerned. Experiments with the new insecticide, D.D.T. and Gammexane Dust have been carried out and found to be satisfactory in every way. No further infestations have been reported.

Conversions.

There have been 4 conversions during the year, 4 pail closets have been replaced by fresh water closets connecting to the Main Sewage System.

A survey has been carried out regarding existing privy middens, and it is hoped to substitute these with Pail Closets and Ash Bins which ensure a weekly collection and are far more hygienic. Where a sewer is available conversions will be carried out and water closets installed. 15 privy middens abolished and replaced by 15 pails and ash bins. No sewer is available in these cases.

Housing.

During the year no houses were erected and no premises converted into dwellings.

The Defects under Housing Acts are as follows :—

Defective	Handrails to stairs	13
„	Stair Treads	1
„	Windows	1
„	Window Frames	21
„	Window Cords	16
„	Window Fasteners	6
„	Doors	11
„	Door Casings	14
„	Architraves	1
„	Coal Store doors	2
„	Beadings	1
„	Beading Fasteners	2
„	Fire-ranges	18
„	Fire Backs	4
„	Flues	2
„	Fire Back Brickwork	3
„	Washing Coppers	2
„	Lids to washing coppers	2
„	Copper Brickwork	1
„	Copper Grate	1
„	Copper Bars	1
„	Oven	4
„	Boilers	4
„	Chimney Stacks	12
„	Roofs.....	39
„	Ceiling Plaster	28
„	Wall Plaster	37
„	Eaves Gutters	21
„	Rain Water Pipes	18
Damp Walls	..... .....	34
Defective	Joints to W.C. Pedestal	2
„	Weather Boards and Threshers	22
„	Skirting Boards	1
„	Grate to Yard Gully	1
„	Yard Pavings	11
„	Floors	20
„	Sinks	6
„	Water Supplies to W.C. cisterns	2
„	Fasteners to W.C. doors	1
„	W.C. Drainage	1

Defective Soil Pipes	1
„ Surface Approach	1
„ W.C. seats	10
„ Internal Woodwork	2
„ Pipe to W.C.	1
„ Sink Waste Pipes	2
„ Passages to Front Doors	6
„ Ridge Tiles	8
„ Cistern	1
„ Boards and Joists	2
„ Flashings	3
„ Door Locks	1
„ Taps	1
„ Gable End Walls	1
„ Brickwork Pointings	7
„ Wall Ventilations	2
Dampness Caused by Windows	5
TOTAL	441

It was found necessary to issue six Statutory Notices during the year under the Housing Acts. The works are in hand.

In compliance with a Court Order all works were carried out to a certain dwelling and it was not necessary to have a Demolition Order confirmed. The overcrowding survey can be regarded as complete. During the year 55 visits have been made to premises to ascertain permitted No's and 55 houses have been measured up.

Housing conditions generally have deteriorated during the past twelve months, but an increasing number of repairs has been carried out. Labour difficulties are slightly improved and the system of Essential Works Certificates and Building Licences enable us to utilise labour in the right channels. Materials remain a difficulty but permits under the regulations enable builders to receive a priority. We have at least 250 houses waiting to be dealt with as clearance areas, and these present a real problem. The cost in trying to keep them at all habitable is excessive and the tenants are continuously exposed to discomfort and insanitary conditions. Dissatisfaction is openly expressed by them in having to remain in houses unfit for human habitation when persons in rooms are to occupy the new houses being built. This system will of course alleviate overcrowding conditions which now exist in parts of the District.

Out of 25 Temporary houses allocated to the district, 10 have arrived and have been erected, and only a few minor details are still required to complete them. Of the 50 Permanent Houses to be built, four are roofed and nearly ready for occupation.

Public Cleansing Service.

This is probably the most costly item in the Council's commitments, and every effort is made to keep the cost down to the minimum consistent with the maintenance of the high standard of efficiency in collection and disposal which our ratepayers now expect as a matter of course.

Refuse Collection.

During the year a weekly collection of refuse and salvage has been maintained, serving all houses and business premises in the area.

Staff.

The outdoor staff consists of the following :—

1 Motor Driver.

4 Bin men.

2 men, Cesspools and Pails (part-time).

Disposal and Salvage.

2 Men, screeners.

1 Man, paper bailer (part-time).

Occasional Labour.

1 Motor Driver.

1 Loader.

Motors.

1 Karrier Refuse Vehicle.

1 Horse and water cart.

1 Bedford lorry (part-time).

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse collected by the Council is disposed of by controlled tipping at :—

New Byron Brickworks,

Lime Kiln Fields,

Shuttlewood,

Stanfree.

Utilization of Refuse.

One large Book and Salvage Drive was organised during the year. Circulars appealing to house-holders for increased efforts in the salvage of materials were distributed by the Salvage Stewards during a house to house canvas. Films were shown and Public Appeals were made by Councillors and Council Officials. A staff of over 65 Salvage Stewards, Youth Organisations, Schools and the W.V.S., etc., worked together to attain the high figures shown in books and salvage collected.

Collection of Kitchen Waste.

A bi-weekly collection of kitchen waste is made but the public response is far from satisfactory due to the number of private pig and poultry keepers in the district. Swill is sold direct to a local farmer and there is a ready demand for this material.

Screened Ashes.

Nearly all refuse from two tips is being screened, and ashes sold to local gardeners, centrally heated establishments, etc. Owing to the labour shortage the demand exceeds output, but a mechanical screen has been installed to increase production.

Details of Work Done.

1945	No. of loads.	Approx. weight Domestic Refuse.		Ashpits Emptied	Pails Emptied	Cess-pools Emptied
		Tons	Cwts.			
January	153	407	13	27	330	64
February	156	401	10	23	264	102
March	157	399	0	15	264	139
April	151	384	3	31	262	127
May	171	419	5	19	280	119
June	130	322	17	16	272	132
July	140	315	7	17	257	119
August	141	316	6	17	257	119
September	142	356	4	18	326	144
October	143	370	17	25	210	129
November	153	396	8	1	276	143
December	160	259	10	13	206	118
TOTALS ..	1797	4349	0	222	3204	1455

Salvage.

The following quantities of salvage materials were sold during the year-1st April, 1944 to 31st March, 1945.

Materials.	Weight.				Value.		
	T.	C.	Q.	L.	£	s.	d.
Paper	78	3	1	—	402	1	9
Ferrous Metal	1	12	—	—	4	2	7
Rubber	4	15	—	—	10	12	6
Kitchen Waste	34	13	—	—	44	4	9
Old Shoes	1	1	—	—	11	18	10
Bones	4	13	—	—	22	0	11
Rags and Sacks	3	9	3	—	33	4	0
Non Ferrous Metal	200	15	—	—	212	10	6
Jars	15½	gross			3	17	6
Totals	329	1	2	—	744	13	4

Totals for the year ending March 31st, 1944.

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
196	19	3	7	562	8	7

Summary of Work Done in the Sanitary Department.

Inspection for Nuisances and Miscellaneous Visits	3314
No. of Nuisances Found	489
No. of Preliminary Notices Served	358
No. of Statutory Notices Served	32
Visits to Factories	160
,, Workplaces	3
,, Butchers Shops	33
,, Market Stalls	40
,, Dairies	29
,, Farms and Cowsheds	108
,, Knacker's Yard	46
,, re Rat Infestation	97
,, arrange Scabies and Verminous Head Treatments	23
,, Fried Fish Shops	35
,, Food Preparing Premises	15
,, Schools	87
,, Public Buildings, Inns, etc.	11

Ascertaining Permitted Nos.	55
Measuring up (Houses)	55
Milk Samples Taken	91
Water Samples taken	8
Rats Caught	862
Pigs Inspected	—
Food Condemned	4 cwts. 1 qr. 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Library Books Disinfected	11
Rooms Disinfected	21
Verminous Houses	29
Conversions	4

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Thomas and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES HOLDEN SMELLIE.

